

# WESTMINSTER NEWS



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2419 • 612.332.3421 • www.eWestminster.org

July 15, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 11

## A Summer Full of Mission

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn (Detroit); Douglas Mitchell (Bethlehem); Timothy Hart-Andersen (Cuba)

For some, summer is a time to relax and take it easy. For many at Westminster summer means mission trips, and our members and staff have been busy! The middle school students are on their trip to St. Cloud and Collegeville, MN, and the Cuba travelers are returning. Another group just returned from a visit to our partner congregation in Bethlehem, and a high school group spent a week in June doing service projects in Detroit. Westminster travelers report that they are enriched by mission trip opportunities, as they bring the love of Christ to others.

### Senior High Mission Trip to Detroit

The week of June 19-26 a group of 21 youth and 7 leaders traveled from Westminster to Detroit, MI to participate in the 2011 Summer Mission Blast sponsored by the Presbytery of Detroit. We met with and served alongside young people from the metro-Detroit area, heard their stories, visited their churches, and learned about being the church together. Our Westminster group helped plant food in a community garden that will eventually go to families in need in Detroit, we weeded and planted a garden for residents of a public housing complex in Ann Arbor, washed cars to raise money for public school children in Detroit, and helped pack food at the largest community food bank in Southeastern Michigan.



Detroit, continues on pg. 2

### Bethlehem

Between June 22 and July 10, seven people from Westminster and Cantus visited our partner congregation, the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine. In one group, Rodney Allen Schwartz, Philip Friedman, and Cantus tenor Aaron Humble, taught courses at Dar Al-Kalima College, which is a part of the Christmas Church's outreach ministries. Bette Englund, Trish Van Pilsum, Susan Whiteman and I traveled together as another group from June 28 to July 9. We began our trip by visiting the Galilee area north of Tel Aviv, staying in Tiberius, right on the Sea of Galilee. We had a very meaningful day visiting churches and chapels marking events in Jesus' public ministry. Most meaningful was the time spent on the Mount of Beatitudes, standing on the site of the Sermon on the Mount and envisioning the scene on that hillside where we read the Beatitudes aloud in a group and the visit to Capernaum where so much of Jesus' ministry took place. There are archeological sites there from the time of Jesus which are well preserved and presented.

Bethlehem, continues on pg. 2



### Cuba

We are just finishing up Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at our partner church, Versalles, in Matanzas, Cuba. Nearly 40 local children came to VBS, ranging in age from 3 to 16 years old. We divided the children into three groups, by age. Each of the groups has 2 or 3 Westminster youth and a Cuban adult working with them. The other Westminster youth are working in the activity sta-

Cuba, continues on pg. 2



**Detroit**, *continued from pg. 1*

In addition to our mission projects, we also had the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Farmington Hills, MI, the African American History Museum in Detroit, and attend a Tigers baseball game at Comerica Park. One of the lasting impressions of the trip for our young people and leaders will be the incredible hospitality we received from our host church and from the faithful members of the Presbytery of Detroit. We were so warmly welcomed by everyone we met and felt energized by the leadership of the young people involved in making the week of mission, worship, and fellowship possible. Thank you to volunteer adult leaders Heidi Bolgren, Matt Ditzler, Elsa Kendig, and Sonja Mortenson for your energy, laughter and leadership for the week!

**Bethlehem**, *continued from pg. 1*

The teachers got to spend a lot of time with the staff and students at Dar Al-Kalima, and they come back with many inspiring and challenging stories to tell. Many of the staff are also members of Christmas Church. The newly completed College building is quite beautiful and will provide room to grow and space that will allow them to generate revenue from community use of the building.

Once our second group arrived in Bethlehem, we were able to join with the teachers for much of our time there. We visited the locations of the ministries of the Diyar Consortium, the collection of outreach ministries of Christmas Church. There was great joy in these experiences, but other places were very sorrowful and disturbing. We all visited the Dheisheh refugee camp in which over 20,000 people are living in less than one square kilometer of land. This is one of 59 Palestinian refugee camps that were set up after 75,000 Palestinians were forced from their land by the Israelis in 1948. Life in the camps is very hard, with little education and few services. Incursions into Dheisheh by the Israeli military are frequent. We talked to the father of a young male college student who was arrested the night before our visit at 4:00AM for reasons they do not know. We were given a tour by three young people who live there, and they, like the people at Christmas Lutheran, are amazingly hopeful and positive in the face of so many challenges.

We all worshipped at Christmas Church on Sunday morning, and I had the privilege of preaching. We had two productive visits with the Council (like our Session) of the church during which we shared stories of our congregations and talked about our hopes and plans for living out our partnership in the future. I am confident that our relationships will continue to grow and strengthen over time. We will be setting up a time to make a presentation to Westminster and let everyone know when it is scheduled.

**Cuba**, *continued from pg. 1*

tions helping Nancy Engh with the art projects, or Michael Janasz with the games, or Anna Kendig with drama.

The theme for the week is worship. Most of these children have never been to church, or have only been in a worship service for a few minutes and really have little idea of what is going on. The hope is that in our four days with them they might learn something about what it means to worship God.

The WPC youth made good friends with some of the Versalles young people who attend the VBS by morning as participants, and then by afternoon as part of the group of youth on our excursions to swim, snorkel, take a boat up the river, etc. The WPC adults also met with the session of the church to discuss VBS, the ministry they are hoping to begin with seniors in the community, and also the clean water project for the church and how they could implement that system.

The VBS experience culminated in joyful Sunday worship. The service began with 30 Versalle children from VBS processing in with a colorful banner they had made, to the sound of drumbeats from drums they had decorated in VBS projects. They led the service at various points, by helping Anna Kendig with her sermon and giving the benediction. There were close to 100 people in church, a third of them young people. Lots of energy!

Our water group (the four adults who are on the trip mostly to investigate the installation of clean water systems) has had good conversations with Cuban church leaders about the provision of clean water. They spent time at the seminary and the local orphanage where a system was installed a year ago, to see how its use is helping that community. They learned from the orphanage director that in the past year the children have been healthier than ever before. Clean water makes a huge difference. We are talking with Carlos Piedra, the pastor of our partner church here in Versalles, about the possibility of installing a system in this church. It looks like a good possibility.

# From Our Pastor

## Dear Friends,

I write this missive while on the way to Matanzas, Cuba, with a group of 17 people from Westminster—ten youth and seven adults. We will visit our partner congregation for a week, helping them with a Vacation Bible School for children in the neighborhood.

Part of our group will be checking on clean water installations at two sites in Matanzas, the Protestant seminary and an orphanage, and planning for a third, new project at a church in Havana.

I am delighted that a “Clean Water Ministry” has sprung up at Westminster. Several church members have now been trained at “Clean Water U,” a project of the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s Synod of Living Waters. If you’re interested in becoming involved in this ministry that helps meet a basic human need, let me know.

After a couple days in Havana our group will return on July 14, just in time to welcome Steve Robertson, Westminster’s new Associate for Pastoral Care, who starts on July 15.

Then I have one more week in town before heading out to Ghost Ranch, the Presbyterian Conference Center in northern New Mexico, for a couple weeks of study and sermon preparation. My annual worship planning work at the Ranch is always rejuvenating!

On Sunday, July 24, I will preach at Grace-Trinity Community Church at Hennepin and 28th in Uptown, a joint Presbyterian-Baptist church. Their congregation has dwindled almost to the point of needing to close the doors. A Task Force at Westminster has been exploring with Grace-Trinity leaders the possibility of starting a new ministry in Uptown at that location.

Westminster has a history of starting new congregations—we’ve helped launch some 16 churches over the years. The Uptown ministry may be the next. Our Session approved a plan calling for a two-year “discovery period” in which Westminster would supervise a new pastor at the Uptown site in an effort to start a new ministry based there.

The Grace-Trinity Council approved our proposal; I have been invited to preach about the plan on July 24. The congregation meets to discuss the plan and will vote on it on July 31. Pray for God to work in and through this proposal for new ministry.

We have an exciting fall ahead at Westminster—and the summer’s not bad either!



Timothy Hart-Andersen

## WESTMINSTER CLERGY & STAFF

### The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Kathy Fisher, Executive Assistant

Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving

### ADULT ED. & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Rev. Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Kathy Fisher, Leadership Development Admin. Asst.

Claudia Kapitan, Adult Ed Admin. Assistant

Barbara Mauk, Librarian

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Rev. Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children’s Ministries

Dan Commerford, Dir. of Middle & H.S. Ministries

Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood

Barbara Prince, Administrative Assistant

Madeleine Benishek, Summer Intern

### EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

Melanie McCall, Coord. of Fellowship/Spec. Events

Claudia Kapitan, Evangelism Admin. Assistant

Dan Franklin, Fellowship Admin. Assistant

Kristin Kieft, Publications Coordinator

### FAITH IN ACTION

The Rev. Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Dan Franklin, Coord. of Discipleship Ministries

### MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and  
the Arts/Organist

Dr. Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director,

Westminster Gallery and Archive

Barbara Prince, Program Assistant,

Worship, Music and the Arts

Nancy Carter, Handbell Choir Director

Brad Ollmann, Early Childhood Music

Christopher Laumann, Youth Music Director

### PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Stephen Robertson, Associate Pastor

Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

### ADMINISTRATION

Samuel G. Cooke, Director of Administration

Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenber, Wedding Coordinator

### FACILITIES

Neale Holleschau, Facilities Manager

Todd Bushy, Brian Coyoc, Christopher Glenn,

Richard Wilder, Facilities Staff

### EMERITA

The Rev. Elizabeth D. Heller, Assoc. Pastor Emerita

### WESTMINSTER CAMP AJAWAH

Dave Moore, Director

Sarah Kantrud, Registrar

### WESTMINSTER COUNSELING CENTER

612.332.7743

The Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray, LMFT,

Executive Director

The Rev. Ross A. Aalgaard, MSW, LGSW

The Rev. Dr. Leta J. Herrington, LPC

The Rev. Mary Keen, LMFT

Lori Churchill, Business Manager

### WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL FORUM

Susan McKenna, Director

### PARISH ASSOCIATES (Volunteer Clergy)

The Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

The Rev. Margaret McCray

The Rev. Dean J. Seal

# WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings

## Paint-A-Thon, August 6



Help spruce up a house in Uptown! Paint day is **Saturday, August 6**; prep. day is **Saturday, July 30**. The preparation work involves scraping and washing the surfaces. Sign up in the Heller Commons or contact Dan Franklin, [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org) or 612.332.3421.

## WestConnection Brunch

Let's have brunch! **Sunday, August 21** following the 10:00AM worship service. Join other adults in their 20s & 30s for brunch at a Loring Park eatery. We'll walk over and break bread (and scones and waffles!) together. Save the date. Not on the WestConnection email list? Email Dan Franklin at [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org) or join our Facebook group at Westminster WestConnection.

## Summer Movie Camp

Back by popular demand, it's Movie Camp! A week-long class for kids (junior high and thereabouts), learning to make movies from the Parables of Jesus. Kirsten Lind Seal and Dean J. Seal, Theater artists, will run classes from 9:00AM to Noon, **Monday-Friday, Aug. 29-Sept. 2**. Students will learn warm-ups, tongue-twisters, improv skills, how to write a shooting script, location-scouting, collaborative script writing, costuming, art direction—all based on making the parables updated and re-cast for your own neighborhood. Each student gets a DVD of their movie at the end of the class. Cost is \$100.00 per student. Registrations available online or contact Mary Alette Davis, [mdavis@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mdavis@wpc-mpls.org).

## Births & Adoptions

**ELEANOR LEANN ALCORN-WEBB**  
 Birthdate: June 2, 2011  
 Family: Julie & Dustin Alcorn-Webb and Henry

## WOW Birthday Luncheon

Mark your calendar! The Annual Birthday Luncheon has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 5**. Women and men are invited to attend this event. Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Memberships will be awarded by Women's Ministries. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the *News* and Sunday bulletins.

## Summer Nursery Helpers

Please consider volunteering **one summer Sunday**—though feel free to sign-up more than once if you wish!—and spend some time with Westminster's wee ones! Contact Marie Kruskop [mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org), 763.535.8973.

## In-Fellowship Email

There's so much going on at Westminster it can be hard to answer the question, "What's going on here for me?" One way to learn more is to sign up for the *In Fellowship* email. Every other week we will send you an email with upcoming events for all kinds of groups: women, men, younger adults, older adults... or the whole church! We give you easy ways to learn more and to sign up, plus you can opt out at any time. If you'd like to receive *In Fellowship*, send an email to Dan Franklin, [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org).

### IN MEMORY OF Jackie Holmes

died May 18, 2011

### Eva Bystrom

died June 27, 2011

### Terry Ellen Robinson

died July 10, 2011

*I am the Resurrection and the Life*



## Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

July 1.....	Ps. 45:10-17
2.....	Rom. 7:15-25a
3.....	Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30
4.....	Rom. 1:18-25
5.....	Rom. 3:1-8
6.....	John 13:1-17
7.....	Gen. 25:19-34
8.....	Ps. 119:105-112
9.....	Rom. 8:1-11
10.....	Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23
11.....	Mic. 1:1-5
12.....	Eph. 4:17-5:2
13.....	Matt. 13:10-17
14.....	Gen. 28:10-19a
15.....	Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24
16.....	Rom. 8:12-25
17.....	Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
18.....	Rev. 14:12-20
19.....	Gal. 4:21-5:1
20.....	Matt. 12:15-21
21.....	Gen. 29:15-28
22.....	Ps. 105:1-11, 45b
23.....	Rom. 8:26-39
24.....	Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52
25.....	Gen. 30:25-36
26.....	Gen. 30:37-43
27.....	Gen. 46:2-47:12
28.....	Gen 32:22-31
29.....	Ps. 17:1-7, 15
30.....	Rom. 9:1-5
31.....	Matt. 14:13-21
August 1.....	Rom. 1:8-15
2.....	Acts 2:37-47
3.....	Matt. 15:32-39
4.....	Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28
5.....	Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
6.....	Rom. 10:5-15
7.....	Matt. 14:22-23
8.....	Gen. 37:29-36
9.....	Rom. 9:14-29
10.....	Gen. 40:1-23
11.....	Gen. 45:1-15
12.....	Ps. 133
13.....	Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32
14.....	Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28
15.....	Gen. 43:1-34



**Find us on Facebook!**  
[facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterian](https://facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterian)

## Baptism of Adults: What is a *Profession of Faith*?

By Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

An adult becomes a member of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in one of four ways: *transfer* from another congregation, a *reaffirmation of faith*, a *profession of faith*, or *confirmation*.

A *reaffirmation of faith* is the way people join Presbyterian congregations if they were previously members of a Roman Catholic parish (because Catholic parishes do not issue letters of transfer) or if they are no longer in contact with their previous congregation. For Presbyterians, a *profession of faith* is enacted in the sacrament baptism, when a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior.

Many new members to Westminster include adults who have not been baptized prior to joining Westminster. Some of our new members were raised in traditions that embrace *believers' baptism*, meaning that the sacrament of baptism is reserved for those who are able to articulate their faith for themselves. For new members to Westminster who have a background in a *believers' baptism*

tradition, being baptized when they join Westminster continues in the tradition they came from.

Baptism in *believers' baptism* traditions usually occurs in the teen years or in early adulthood. Presbyterians recognize that those who are baptized in childhood have not made a profession of faith for themselves, and so we embrace *confirmation* as the moment when young people are given the opportunity to confirm the profession of faith that was made of their behalf.

Some folks who come to Westminster were not raised in a church tradition, and so come to Westminster as their first church home. Presbyterians do not re-baptize, so adult baptisms are only conducted for those who have not been baptized before, regardless of the tradition. It is always a great joy for all involved to participate in and witness the baptism of an adult believer, and we give thanks for God for the opportunities to respond to God's grace together!

### CLEARWATER FOREST CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S RETREAT

Rev. Kathy Michael will be the keynote speaker at Clearwater Chrysalis Summer Retreat for women of all ages, August 18-21.

Presentations will explore the lives and experiences of biblical women as well as women in our own lives, and what their challenges, flaws, and imperfections can teach us about ourselves. Kathy will also lead a workshop on *Suffering and the Life of Faith*.

Registration and housing (double occupancy) is \$250. Registration & info available at [clearwaterforest.org](http://clearwaterforest.org). Brochures and registration forms are also available on the literature tables at the church. For more information, contact Pat Daily, [patdaily@comcast.net](mailto:patdaily@comcast.net).

Registration deadline is August 1.

## 2012 Traveling Seminar

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

### Turkey Adventure: Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul

The Education for Faith & Life Traveling Seminar will journey to the beautiful and exotic country of Turkey, **April 20-May 3, 2012**. We will trace Paul's missionary journeys and visit sites of the churches of Revelation. We will meet with Christians to learn about the expression and challenges of their faith in a Muslim country. We will learn about the important role that Turkey plays in the politics of the Middle East.

This journey promises to be a powerful experience of learning, community, and growth in our understanding of our Christian identity. Contact Kathy Michael for more info, [kmichael@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:kmichael@wpc-mpls.org).

### CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning its work seeking leaders to serve as officers of Westminster. We are looking for people with gifts and experience in health and senior care, architecture, worship and evangelism, stewardship of resources, human resources, youth leadership, and more. If you or someone you know has gifts to bring to the leadership of Westminster over the next several years, please submit the names to Kathy Fisher, either with the recommendation brochures on the literature tables or online at [ewestminster.org/leadershipdevelopment](http://ewestminster.org/leadershipdevelopment). Requirements for officers and desired qualities are included in the recommendation forms. The offices of Elder, Deacon and Trustee are three-year terms. Elders and Deacons are required to complete 6 months of Officer Training before taking office, and Trustees are strongly encouraged to enter the training as well.

## WOW Summer Day Trips

By Sharon Achor, WOW Co-Coordinator

**W**estminster on Wednesdays (WOW) plans fun, stimulating, and often stirring trips each summer, and YOU are invited! All the work is done for you, just sign up and show up. All are welcome. We travel together via comfy coach buses, which are funded by the Faith Nixon Fund. Trips depart from and return to the church. WOW Summer 2011 trips continue in August and September...

Join us on **August 3** for a trip to St. John's University in Collegeville, MN to learn about the beautiful and inspirational work of the St. John's Bible. The trip will include noon prayer with the Monastic Community. After a deli-buffet lunch, we'll tour the Abbey Church. \$12.50 Make reservations on July 17 & 24 in the Heller Commons or call Ruth Hass, 612.866.3871.

The final summer WOW day trip on **September 7**, 9:30AM-3:30PM will take us to two historic churches. First, we will visit Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul, which was established in 1863 by a group of African American migrants from Missouri. Trustee Nathaniel Galloway, member of a founding family, will speak to us about the history of the church and lead a tour of the building.

After a buffet lunch at Becketwood, we will journey to Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis. This church holds national significance as one of the most celebrated works by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. Docents will lead us on a tour of this remarkable, spiritually fulfilling space. Cost is \$21.00. Make reservations August 21 & 28 in the Heller Commons, or contact Sharon Achor, sachor@comcast.net or 952.847.9117.



### A Legacy Thought

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.*

II Corinthians 9:10

To discuss how you can help sustain the future of Westminster with a Legacy Gift, contact Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving, 612.332.3421 or mhess@wpc-mpls.org. You can also visit [www.ewestminster.org/Legacy](http://www.ewestminster.org/Legacy) for more info. If you already have made arrangements for a gift, please let Mary know.

## Nursery Families to Visit Como Zoo

By Marie Kruskop, Coordinator, Early Childhood Ministries

**J**oin us as we visit Como Park Zoo on **August 20**, **3:30-6:00PM** (Note time change!). We'll meet at Cafesjian's Carousel located near the Palm Parking Lot at the junction of Estabrook Drive and Midway Parkway (at the south end of the zoo grounds).



We'll visit the animals and gather again at 5:00PM to share a meal (bring your own picnic or purchase food from the Park's concession stands).

Admission to Como Park is free though a voluntary donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children helps them care for the animals and plants.

For directions and more information on Como Park Zoo and Conservatory visit [comozooconservatory.org](http://comozooconservatory.org).

RSVP to Marie at [mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org) or 763.535.8973 by Wednesday, August 17 so I know who to look for and how many to expect! Thank you!

## Paint-A-Thon

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

**T**his year's Paint-A-Thon will be **Saturday, August 6** and we will be painting the home of a woman in the 3300 block of Hennepin Ave. in the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis.



Paint-A-Thon is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, and Westminster has been participating for over 25 years. It's a great time for fellowship and hands-on ministry in an area of Minneapolis where Westminster hopes to be more visible in the coming years.

This year's house is in pretty good shape and the preparation and painting should go smoothly. **Saturday, July 30** Duncan King will supervise a Preparation Day when a small crew will do some minimal scraping and priming. We need at least 20 volunteers for Paint Day and there are t-shirts for all participants!

You can sign up Sundays in July or by contacting Dan Franklin, [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org). As always we can use a few extension ladders, so even if you can't participate perhaps you can loan some equipment!

## Helping to Tell the Palestinian Story Through Art

By Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, The Westminster Gallery and Archive

The students are Palestinian, and for the most part have never been allowed to travel beyond Bethlehem and the surrounding West Bank territories. They are studying art and hope to become successful artists, but have never been in a museum. The city of Jerusalem touches Bethlehem, but barbed wire, airport-style security checkpoints (complete with metal detectors and baggage scanners) make access humiliating and time-consuming for those who have the right papers. Palestinians who do not have the correct citizenship papers might spend their entire lives in a virtual and physical jail.

As the Israeli-built wall grows and encloses more and more Palestinian land, further cutting off access, families are separated from each other and from their land. It is disturbing to visit neighborhoods and families and hear the stories of home demolitions, infrequent access to water, lack of the right to travel and communicate, and so much more.

As the opportunity becomes available many Palestinians just give up and leave, which is not an easy thing to do. The decreasing population is especially evident in the dwindling number of Christians who still live in Palestine. The fear is that one day there won't be any Christians living in Bethlehem, the site of Jesus' birth.

Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church of Bethlehem, Westminster's partner congregation, focuses its ministries on culture and the arts. Hoping to strengthen the ability of the people to describe and illustrate their collective and individual stories can foster a greater sense of community.



One of several Palestinian artworks acquired for the Westminster Collection.



The author with the artist Sami Sholi and his drawing Through the Horizon

Parents are sometimes surprised to discover that when their children are given an opportunity, they have a story to tell that the parents have not heard.

Through arts education that includes dance, music, painting, sculpture, photography, film, culinary arts, and more, students are encouraged to find and tell stories.

Seven Westminster members and friends traveled in late June and early July for several reasons. Some visited holy sites throughout Israel and Palestine. We all engaged with the members of Christmas Lutheran to further develop the personal friendships begun by earlier visitors. I was one of three who stayed in Bethlehem for three weeks to teach at Dar al-Kalima College as part of their summer school program. Philip Friedman taught several business and time management courses. Aaron Humble (a tenor with Cantus) taught voice lessons and had the amazing and unexpected opportunity to be a judge for *Palestinian Idol*, not once, but twice.

My course included design theory, and the how and why of museums, galleries, and exhibitions. Two of my seven students spoke English fluently and translated everything that I said into Arabic. Written assignments were accepted in either language and were translated to English as needed. The process was slow, but effective. Language and cultural diversity made for challenging moments. In the end, my two Christian Palestinian students and five Muslim Palestinian students demonstrated that they understood both theory and practical information that will ultimately help them tell their and others' stories through art.

For further information or to arrange a tour of the current exhibitions, the building, or the archive contact Rodney Allen Schwartz, [rschwartz@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:rschwartz@wpc-mpls.org) or 612.332.3421.

# RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



*By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries*

Community Involvement Programs (CIP) has been responding to people with mental disabilities since its founding by Westminster in 1971. CIP's first residential facility was at 1705 Stevens Avenue South and was leased from Abbott Hospital. CIP grew out of a program called the Westminster Day Activity Center (WDAC) and, in a December 1971 article in the *Westminster News*, was billed as a change in name only, with Associate Pastor Thomas Zemek saying "the spirit, dedication, energy, vision and experience that (went) into creating CIP (came) directly from WDAC." In the years since, this long-standing Community Partner has developed a broad array of services and supports. These include residential supports for individuals with mental illness, as well as those with developmental disabilities. These services strive to be responsive to the individual needs and preferences of each person CIP supports. Services have also expanded to include com-

munity-based supported employment, senior services for older people with disabilities and many other programs.

CIP strives to assure that the people it supports will live in safe, affordable housing, with whom they want to live and in locations where they want to live. Westminster's past role in that effort, other than financial, has been for members to make "welcome baskets" for CIP clients as they move into housing. These baskets are a collection of goods—laundry detergent, bedding, towels, personal care items and more—that will help the clients establish themselves in their new homes.

Westminster Deacon Victoria Cain is working to revive this service project and is actively recruiting volunteers to join her. If you would like to participate in the resumption of this important ministry of Westminster, please contact Dan Franklin, [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org), or 612.332.3421.

• Dan can be reached at 612.332.3421 or [dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org) •

## A Thank-You from Nicollet Square

The grand opening of Nicollet Square was a great success! On May 5, over 400 community members joined together to celebrate 42 new homes for young adults coming out of homelessness or exiting foster care.

We were inspired by words from Mayor Rybak, Councilmember Glidden, Commissioner Dorfman, Rev. Hart-Andersen, Rev. Gertmanian, and Nicollet Square tenants Markita and Rich.

Attendees toured the apartments, learned about where tenants are employed in the community, and enjoyed catering by Chef Jeff and his crew in the vacant retail space.

Thanks to all of you who attended, and especially to our volunteers!

## Teaching About Faith is Meaning-Making

*By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries*

As you listen to the rustling breezes of summer, the lap, lap, lapping of the lake against the shore, the cry of the lonely loon, and the sounds of people relaxing and responding to the calls of summer, maybe you are also hearing another call: a deep invitation to be a transmitter, a conduit, a mentor, a companion, a TEACHER—of faith. Our Westminster church school teachers are evidence of the joy that comes from teaching the most important aspects of being human. They help our young find meaning and purpose in this amazing creation we have been given by a loving God.

Each grade has a team of teachers that develops a unique identity based on the skills and interests of its members and the age and curriculum goals of the grade they are teaching. Members of each team support each other in planning lessons and in classroom teaching. Teams also allow for flexible scheduling as there are generally three or four members on each grade level teaching team, which allows for breaks and scheduling conflicts.

This fall the need for teachers at Westminster is very crucial. Several teaching places are open for the 5th grade which uses the PC(USA) *We Believe* curriculum Old Testament Survey Course and for the 6th grade which has the companion New Testament Survey Course. Teaching this organized curriculum will allow you to integrate and brush up your own knowledge of the Bible while sharing it with really wonderful learners in the 5th and 6th grades. These pre-teen years are golden years of learning and your impact on these children may bear fruit for years to come!

Please consider your talents and time and answer the call! For more information contact Mary Alette Davis Director of Children's Ministries [mdavis@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:mdavis@wpc-mpls.org) or 612.332.3421.